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Message Text

SECRET

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45 S
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03 H-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 SCEM-02 SCI-06 INT-08

COME-00 TRSE-00 DRC-01 EB-11 STR-08 /131 W
---------- 053472
O R 091550Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7615
INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T OSLO 118

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL INVITATION TO ENERGY CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 4153

1. NORWEGIAN PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI'S OVER-ALL REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER WAS QUITE POSITIVE. HE WAS NONCOMMITTAL ON THE SPECIFICS OF THE PROPOSAL BUT ASSURED ME THAT IT WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN THE CABINET TOMORROW (JANUARY 10) WITH A VIEW TO HAVING THE FOREIGN MINISTER ANNOUNCE THE GOVERNMENT'S REACTION AT THE SAME TIME AS THE RELEASE OF THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

2. BRATTELI SAID HE HAS LONG BEEN CONCERNED THAT SOMETHING MUST BE DONE, THAT THE SITUATION THAT HAS OBTAINED FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS
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IS UNTENABLE. ON THE ONE HAND GOVERNMENTS ARE FACED WITH DOMESTIC

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PRESSURES FROM CONSUMERS, ESPECIALLY INDUSTRY AND SHIPPING, WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET A FIRM HANDLE ON THE SUPPLY SITUATION. GOVERNMENTS ARE UNABLE TO GET A TRUE PICTURE OF THE SITUATION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES, AND POSSIBILITIES FOR PROFITEERING AND SHADY DEALING ABOUND. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE, HE SAID, TO BASE TECHNOLOGY IN THE LONG RUN ON AN ENERGY SITUATION WHICH IS SUBJECT TO THIS SORT OF PERIODIC DISRUPTION. ONE OF THE CLEAR IMPLICATIONS OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS WAS THAT SOMETHING IS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE GREATER GOVERNMENTAL CONTROL OVER THE OIL COMPANIES.

3. BRATTELI THEN ASKED WHETHER I HAD ANY INDICATION OF THE REACTION OF "THE CONTINENTALS" TO THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL AND, SPECIFICALLY, WHETHER I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE THE CONFERENCE IF FRANCE OBJECTED. I SAID I REALIZED THAT THERE WAS CONCERN FOR HOW THE FRENCH MIGHT RESPOND AND AGREED THAT FRENCH COOPERATION WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, BUT ADDED THAT, WHILE I COULD ONLY SPECULATE, I THOUGHT THE PROBLEM WAS TOO CRUCIAL TO IGNORE SIMPLY BECAUSE SOME PARTICULAR COUNTRY MIGHT OPT OUT.

4. COMMENT: TRUE TO HIS REPUTATION OF BEING SPHYNX-LIKE, BRATTELI GAVE NO CLUE AS TO HOW HE PERSONALLY VIEWED THE IDEA OF THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE. IT WOULD NOT BE HIS STYLE, IN ANY CASE, TO RESPOND TO THE INVITATION ON BEHALF OF HIS GOVERNMENT WITHOUT FULL CONSULTATION WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT. IT WAS EVIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN WAITING EXPECTANTLY FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL AND THAT HE APPRECIATES THE NEED FOR A STRONG INITIATIVE AT THIS POINT. HIS EXPECTATION OF HAVING A RESPONSE BY TOMORROW IS INDICATIVE OF THE URGENCY WITH WHICH HE VIEWS THE MATTER. BYRNE

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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